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REPORT OF THE SIXTH MEETING OF THE CONFERENCE OF AFRICAN MINISTERS OF TRANSPORT, COMMUNICATIONS AND PLANNING

(Kinshasa (Zaire), 23 and 24 March 1988)

A. ORGANIZATION

1. The Sixth Meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning was held in Kinshasa (Zaire) on 23 and 24 March 1988, at the invitation of the Conseil Executif of the Republic of Zaire.

B. ATTENDANCE AND PARTICIPATION

2. Representatives of the following member States of the Economic Commission for Africa participated in the meeting: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe.

3. Canada, Great Britain and Greece participated in the meeting as observers.

4. The Meeting was also attended by representatives of the following bodies and specialized agencies of the United Nations: the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), World Bank, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and the International Maritime Organization (IMO).

5. The following African Inter-governmental organizations and other institutions were also represented: the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the African Airlines Association (AFRAA), the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), the Economic Community of the Great Lakes countries (CEPGL), the Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC), the African Posts and Telecommunications Union (UAPT), the Pan-African Telecommunications Union (PATU), the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern African States (PTA), the Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern African States (PMAESA), the Union of African Railways (UAR), the Arab Bank for African Economic Development (BADEA), the European Economic Community and the Caisse Centrale de Cooperation Economique (CCCE).

C. OPENING OF THE MEETING

6. In his opening statement, the outgoing Chairman, the Minister of Zimbabwe thanked the President, government and people of the Republic of Zaire for their hospitality. He also thanked the Conference for having put confidence in his country by electing it as Chairman at the fifth meeting at Harare in 1986.

7. He reminded the meeting of the many decisions made at the Harare meeting, mentioning in particular those concerning the feasibility study for the Regional African Satellite Communications System (RASCOM) and the immediate evaluation of the UNTACDA programme. He further recalled the decision taken by the Conference at its fourth meeting at Conakry in 1984 where it accepted, in principle, the need for a second Decade programme for the development of transport and communications in Africa.

8. The outgoing Chairman then summarized the major events that took place in the past two years during Zimbabwe's chairmanship. Among these were Africa's concerted effort to tackle the economic problems it faced as epitomized in the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery as well as the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development. Among the Decade related activities of the period, the Chairman highlighted the satisfactory progress of the RASCOM feasibility study, efforts to mobilize resources for the implementation of Decade projects through the organization of cofinancing meetings, the road maintenance seminar which was held in Harare at the end of 1987, as well as the evaluation of the Decade programme which has just been completed. The report on the evaluation of the Decade and its recommendations were part of the agenda which the meeting would consider.

9. In conclusion, the outgoing Chairman thanked his bureau and the Conference for their co-operation over the last two years.

10. In his address during the opening ceremony, the Executive Secretary of ECA recalled that the genesis of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade had been at Kinshasa eleven years ago when the ECA Conference of Ministers had passed a resolution requesting the international community to proclaim the Decade; that had duly been done by the United Nations General Assembly in December 1977. The proclamation of the Decade followed close on the heels of the Paris Conference on International Co-operation during which the countries of the South had argued for a restructuring of international economic relations in order to redress manifest imbalances rendering the countries of the South perpetually subservient to those of the North.

11. The Decade had been proclaimed amidst optimism and excitement about the prospects of such an unprecedented event in the annals of the United Nations. It was genuinely hoped that developed countries had understood the concerns of the developing countries and that they would render more financial and economic assistance to the latter. This, however, was not to be and, for those involved with UNTACDA, disillusionment had set in when the results of the Pledging Conference convened by the U.N. Secretary-General in November 1979 specifically for mobilizing resources for the implementation of the UNTACDA programme had been less than satisfactory.

12. Throughout most of the 1980's the international economic environment had not been favourable for the developing countries. Firstly, there had been the deep recession into which the world economy had been plunged; secondly, drought of unprecedented severity had menaced countries in the Sudano-Sahelian zone and in Eastern and Southern Africa; thirdly, the performance of African economies had so continued to decline that the twenty-first ordinary Session of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity had been devoted exclusively to the matter and it had approved the African Priority Programme for Economic Recovery (APPER), 1986-1991. In its turn, the United Nations had held a special session of the General Assembly in May 1986 during which the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development (UN-PAAERD) had been adopted. The problem of economic recovery had recently been compounded by the one of external debt.

13. The Executive Secretary then reviewed some of the decisions of the fifth meeting of the Conference of Ministers. In particular, he referred to the instruction to ECA that it undertake an in-depth evaluation of UNTACDA. Nine independent evaluators had come to the conclusion that while the objectives and the strategy adopted by the first meeting of the Conference of Ministers in 1979 had been found to still be valid, it was the implementation of the Decade programme which had not been entirely satisfactory. Thus, the evaluators had recommended the proclamation of a second Decade covering the period 1991 to 2000 to continue the work that was started during the first Decade, with a two-year preparatory period in 1989 and 1990 for elaborating a better programme than that of the first Decade. The evaluators had also recommended the retention of the institutional mechanisms created during the first Decade with the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee being expanded to include users and operators of transport and communications systems. The Executive Secretary also referred to the excellent work being done by the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee of RASCOM which had succeeded in attracting more funds for the feasibility study than was required. This and other aspects of the committee's work could well be emulated by other committees dealing with other transport and communications subsectors.

14. The Executive Secretary concluded by once again thanking the President, the Government and the people of Zaire for hosting the meeting. He said that Zaire was a country in whose destiny ECA had been involved right from the time of its independence.

15. The Minister of Transport and Communications, speaking on behalf of the President of the Republic and the people of Zaire, as well as on his own behalf, welcomed the delegates.

16. He recalled that in order to develop its economy and achieve economic independence, Africa should in particular ensure the development of the transport and communications sector. However, the outward oriented character of the existing transport and communications systems do not adapt to the current situation and it is necessary to restructure them. Such restructuring was taken into consideration within the context of the first Decade. Nevertheless, in view of the obstacles encountered throughout the Decade, the proclamation of a Second Decade is necessary. It should be inspired by the results of the evaluation of the first Decade, in relation to the objectives outlined. This evaluation reflected the relatively low level of financing obtained for implementation of Decade projects primarily on account of the rather ambitious nature of the programme, the absence of an African transport plan which was a set back to integration, the unfavourable economic climate during the Decade, certain shortcomings in the criteria for selecting projects and the inadequacy of mechanisms for dissemination of information. However, through the functioning of its statutory organs, the Decade facilitated the strengthening of co-operation in Africa. The preparation of the second Decade based on the definition of an African transport plan during a transition period, requires the maintenance and strengthening of these structures.

17. He then wished participants every success in their deliberations and invited the Prime Minister to formally declare the Conference open.

18. The Prime Minister then took the floor and formally declared open the sixth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning.

Election of Officers (Agenda item 2)

19. The meeting elected the following officers:

Chairman:	Zaire
First Vice-Chairman:	Somalia
Second Vice-Chairman:	Egypt
Rapporteur:	Mali

Adoption of the agenda and organization of Work (Agenda item 3)

20. The meeting adopted the following agenda:

1. Opening of the meeting
2. Election of Officers
3. Adoption of the Agenda and Programme of Work
4. General Debate
5. Consideration of the Report of the Meeting of Experts
6. Consideration of Draft Resolutions
7. Any Other Business
8. Date and Venue of the Next Meeting of the Conference
9. Adoption of the Report and Closure of the Meeting.

General debate (Agenda item 4)

21. In his intervention the delegate of Cameroon first expressed thanks to the Conseil Executif for hosting the Conference and to ECA for its efforts to ensure the success of the Decade.

22. He drew the attention of the Conference to the adverse consequences of deregulation of the air transport sector in Europe and the United States, stressing that African countries should adopt a common policy to meet such a situation. He also highlighted the need for defining the programme for the second Decade, based on a detailed analysis of the lessons of the first Decade. The results obtained should be put at the disposal of the African Heads of State and Government before the end of 1988. Furthermore it would be necessary to rationalize the use and exploitation of existing infrastructure, to define a realistic policy in telecommunications and air transport services in Africa and develop appropriate mergers in order to safeguard African companies involved in air and maritime transport. He confirmed his support for the launching of the second Decade that would have a purely technical and economic character.

23. The Moroccan delegation after thanking the President, the Conseil Executif and the people of Zaire for the cordial welcome it had received, underscored the fact that it was only through African Unity, particularly in the establishment of an adequate and integrated transport and communications network, that African countries could face the threats posed by large entities which are being

established elsewhere. In this regard it supports the launching of a second Decade whose aims and objectives should achieve the establishment of an African continental network for developing North-South and East-West transport corridors, which are, North West Atlantic, Central-West, Central-East and east, as well as East-West corridors which are Mediterranean-Sahelian Central and South. The removal of all obstacles to the establishment of such links as well as the establishment of a stable system of financing in African countries, are also indispensable. It stressed the need to clearly specify the tasks to be accomplished by each agency involved in the execution of the programme of the Second Decade. In conclusion, the delegation expressed Morocco's offer to host the next meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning.

24. The delegation of Guinea thanked the Conseil Executif for the fraternal welcome it had received, congratulated the Chairman of the Conference upon his election and the ECA for its efforts to ensure the success of the Decade which has just been evaluated. It emphasized the fact that in spite of the various aspects to be taken into consideration for the evaluation, a report of high quality had been prepared. It commended the concrete progress achieved during the first Decade which facilitated a restructuring of transport and communications systems in Africa. However, it pointed out that much remains to be achieved in order to attain the objectives defined and therefore supported the need to launch a second Decade. Furthermore, it urged other States to give it their support.

25. Speaking on the policy of its government in the transport and communications sector, the delegation of Guinea indicated that since it benefits from 33 per cent of the investment budget, this sector ranks second in the priority list and emphasis is put on the opening-up of the productive regions and/or the establishment of inter-state routes.

26. The representative of Burkina Faso first thanked the President of the Republic, the Conseil Executif and the people of Zaire for their warm and brotherly welcome and the quality of the organization of the meeting. He then congratulated the chairman and the members of the Bureau and assured them of his support. He also congratulated the Executive Secretary and the secretariat of ECA.

27. Regarding the Decade, he indicated that Burkina Faso was following closely and supported the activities of the Decade and that its evaluation had revealed that the first Decade had generated a large movement of solidarity as could be seen from the results of the co-financing meeting held at Ouagadougou from 10 to 12 February 1988 during which there was a spirit of co-operation among States and a change in the attitude of the funding agencies, who have now accepted to take into account socio-economic considerations when financing projects, thus offering easier terms for their loans.

28. With regard to the second Decade, he pointed out that his country strongly supported the idea of a second Decade preceded by a period of preparation in order to better prepare it. To this end, he requested ECA to approach organizations such as ECOWAS, CEAO and the Liptako Gourma Authority which have a master plan for transport and communications.

29. In conclusion, he noted that transport and communications were of a vital importance for Burkina Faso, a land-locked country.

30. The delegate of Algeria first congratulated members of the Bureau upon their election and expressed appreciation for the cordial welcome given his delegation since their arrival in Kinshasa.

31. He next expressed sincere thanks to the President of the Republic, to the Conseil Executif and People of Zaire. He also expressed thanks to the Executive Secretary of the ECA as well as to the Minister of Zimbabwe, outgoing Chairman of the Conference.

32. He indicated that this meeting was of particular importance since it marked the end of the first Decade and provides the opportunity of proceeding with the consideration of urgent matters which were decisive factors for the future of the Transport and Communications sector in Africa.

33. Commenting on the Decade, he indicated that it was not easy to undertake an exhaustive evaluation of ten years activity and that one decade was inadequate for restructuring and reorientating the transport and communications system, thus other decades would be necessary.

34. He next considered the achievements of the first Decade and observed the divergence existing between the objectives and the achievements, the shortcomings between the commitments expressed and the realization, the disproportion between existing potential and its exploitation. He also questioned the causes of such inadequacies and quoted as example the worsening of the economic situation in Africa since the early 1980's, the low level of transfer of external resources and endogenous factors. He indicated that the second Decade should be carefully prepared and that the strategy should be reviewed.

35. He informed the meeting that the threat of marginalisation of African Airlines on the International market was for his country a source of deep concern, and that the generalization of the "container system" seriously affected the already meagre resources of African fleets. He indicated that in this regard, Algeria was in support of the proposal on the convening of the meeting of Ministers responsible for Civil Aviation.

36. Concerning the telecommunications sector, he indicated that Africa should reduce its dependence on external sources and that the RASCOM project which would complete the PANAFTEL links was indicative of Africa's commitment to the development of its own system.

37. The representative of Nigeria first congratulated the Commissaire d'Etat for Transport and Communications on his election and assured him of the support of his delegation.

38. He then indicated that Africa had come a long way since the proclamation of the Transport and Communications Decade, the idea of which was launched in Kinshasa in February 1977 during the Fourth Conference of Ministers of ECA. The objective of the Decade was ambitious but this had been deliberate so as to satisfy a need for progress in transport and communications, two among the priorities of the Lagos Plan of Action.

39. He then highlighted the following achievements of the Decade which are not too remote from the target: the mobilization of $US13 billion, out of which 40 per cent were provided by African countries; the construction of several sections of Trans-African Highways; the elimination of physical barriers, particularly within ECOWAS and PTA; and finally, the investments made in the development of African airports.

40. He indicated that Nigeria supported the idea of a two-year period to better prepare the second Decade and to correct the shortcomings of the first one. Nigeria also supported the re-establishment of the Trans-African Highway Bureau which would co-ordinate and promote the development of the various Authorities. ECA would, if requested to do so, not only re-establish the Trans-African Highway Bureau but would also strengthen it thus enabling it to better fulfill its mandate.

41. With regard to the civil aviation sector, he pointed to the new air policies in America and in Europe and the introduction of noise regulations that will have a negative impact on our continent. Those problems required total co-operation and mobilization to confront discriminatory policies. Concerning telecommunications, he stated that his country attached great importance to the RASCOM project. In conclusion, he thanked the Executive Secretary and the ECA secretariat for the efforts made during the first Decade.

42. The representative of Chad referred to the high quality of the report on the evaluation of UNTACDA and reaffirmed his country's total commitment to the Decade. He pointed out that during most of the Decade his country had been faced with several security and economic problems. Nevertheless, some progress had been made with financing having been secured for three out of five road projects, and for one out of two maritime and inland water transport projects. Even greater success had been recorded in the posts and telecommunications fields where out of a total of six projects, two had been completed, one had been partially completed, financing had been found for two and only with respect to one project had financing not been secured at all.

43. The representative of Sudan acknowledged that ECA had worked hard to collect, compile and analyse information necessary for planning future actions and had also succeeded in highlighting transport and communications as a cornerstone of African economic and social development as well as bringing African countries together, even though not to the extent desired. ECA, on the other hand, had not been so successful in mobilizing financial resources for the Decade projects. In spite of the shortcoming, Sudan's support for the Decade had not diminished and his country strongly supported the idea of launching the second Decade which, it was hoped, would rectify all the mistakes of the first. Finally, he informed the meeting that Sudan prepared a four-year Salvation and Development Programme 1988/89-1991/92. In this Programme, Transport and Communications are allocated $US1.16 billion, 20 per cent of the total budget for the whole programme. The

Programme includes the expansion of highways which will cover most of the North-South trunk route and the East-West Corridor. It also allocates a reasonable portion to projects that serve regional connections with neighbouring countries.

44. The representative of Zambia underscored the need to study in detail the implications of UNTACDA so as to draw lessons from both the failures and success of the past. He pointed out that the Decade heralded a new era signifying Africa's resolve to move away from colonial infrastructural and transport systems towards Africa's own, geared to meeting the economic development challenges facing the continent and its people.

45. He then alluded to crucial problems and achievements in some transport sub-sectors. In this regard, he congratulated ECA for promoting the launching of the Beira-Lobito Trans-Southern African Highway. He observed that roads were an important component of Africa's development as, unlike other modes, they were relatively less expensive and more accessible to the ordinary people of Africa. With regard to civil aviation he supported the convening of a special Conference of Ministers responsible for Civil Aviation in order to elaborate a common aeronautic policy geared to the challenge caused by extra-continental policies, espeically those related to noise abatement, and the stiff competition from the larger airlines being formed in Europe as a result of mergers. Finally, regarding maritime transport, he noted that Africa has for too long lagged behind other regions and yet most African economies, being dependent on external trade, needed this essential service. African countries were being used as mere flag carriers without developing their own capability to exploit this very important aspect of their economic development. Zambia, therefore, supported the convening of a meeting of Ministers to deal specifically with maritime transport problems. Finally, Zambia also added its voice to those who supported the idea of a second Decade as a necessary and logical follow-up of the first one.

46. The representative of the World Bank reiterated the Bank's concern about the slow economic development in Africa and reported that the Special Fund for Africa which was set up two years ago, had raised additional $US1.4 billion specifically for the development needs of Africa. Realizing that the lack of efficient transportation facilities and inadequacies of the telecommunications systems are among the major obstacles standing in the way of economic integration, provisions should be made to develop these sectors within the recovery programme of each country.

47. The Bank representative also drew attention of the meeting to the problem of road deterioration and the economic effects of neglecting maintenance. He then informed the meeting of the study which the Bank is jointly undertaking with the ECA in the framework of the Sub-Saharan Africa Transport Programme.

48. The reprsentative of the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO) stated that the objective of the organization is to develop and harmonize international air transport. In the Decade programme ICAO had always participated in the work of the IACC in addition to its regular work in the subregional African offices.

49. Another area of ICAO's activity which is of vital interest to Africa at this time concerns the issue of noise restrictions. In this regard, ICAO has

initiated a comprehensive study on a world wide basis in order to evaluate the economic implications of introducing noise restrictions.

50. The representative of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) informed the meeting that UNCTAD has been involved with the international negotiations on maritime issues as well as those issues pertaining to the transit transport problems of land-locked developing countries. UNCTAD's contribution to the implementation of the Decade has been in the form of technical assistance to African countries in improving and developing port, shipping and multimodal transport management capabilities as well as assistance to land-locked and transit countries in improving and streamlining the transit transport operations along the transit corridors between coastal ports and inland destinations.

51. He then declared that UNCTAD will, as in the past, provide every assistance within its mandate and resources to the preparatory phase of the second Decade as well as in the implementation of its subsequent programme.

52. The representative of the International Maritime Organization (IMO) expressed best wishes for the successful work of the Sixth Conference of Ministers stressing the maritime transport activities of IMO and continuous support to UNTACDA. IMO has been intensively involved in training and manpower development establishing and organizing training centers and programmes including the World Maritime University. Another important priority area of IMO is updating maritime legislation by developing countries to enable build up of proper maritime infrastructures and efficient operations. IMO emphasized its association with UNTACDA and supports the recommendation of the second transport and communications Decade in Africa.

53. The representative of Union of African Railways (UAR) informed the Conference of the activities in the domain of UAR, emphasizing the establishment of training centers in the subregions. The UAR established a Railway Training Institute - l'Ecole Superieure Africaine des Cadres du Chemin du fer (ESACC) based in Brazzaville, Congo, which under the favourable conditions opened its gates to the first group of students in November 1987. The founding members of ESACC were the Railways of Senegal, Mali, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Togo, Benin/Niger, Cameroon, Gabon, Congo and Zaire.

54. The success of the Railway Training Institute in Brazzaville is a result of the collective efforts of the participating railways, UAR and the host country. The representative of UAR called upon the countries to give support and commitments so that the establishment of other planned subregional railway training centers can be carried out more efficiently.

55. The representative of the Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern Africa (PMAESA) congratulated ECA for a successful preparation and organization of the Meeting of Experts and Conference of Ministers. Thanks were also extended to the Government and people of Zaire for the hospitality given during these meetings.

56. Referring to the UNTACDA the representative of PMAESA mentioned that the first Decade had its successes and failures but significant results had been achieved. ECA as a lead agency should draw lessons from the existing Decade and launch a Second Decade for Transport and Communications in Africa.

57. The PMAESA promotes port development and management and has 13 full members and 24 associated members. The representative of PMAESA appealed to the member States for support of the association by active participation in meeting and payment of membership dues. He also thanked ECA for providing continuous secretarial services to the Association in the last 14 years and announced the expected establishment of a permanent secretariat after the Executive Committee meeting on 28 March 1988 in Dar-es-Salaam. He finally proposed the creation of a ministerial conference for Eastern and Southern Africa sub-region on maritime issues.

58. A representative of ITU, on behalf of the ITU Secretary General, stated that the meeting has taken place at a crucial period for Africa firstly because it is the end of UNTACDA and secondly because Africa is currently undergoing worsening economic and social strains. He informed the meeting that ITU has been involved in the implementation of UNTACDA especially in the fields of telecommunications, broadcasting, satellite communications and in the development of manpower in these fields. With regards to the main regional projects, he singled out assistance ITU has provided in the implementation of RASCOM and PANAFTEL and emphasized the reference to these projects in speeches made by the Zimbabwe Minister and the Executive Secretary of ECA. He also echoed the call by the Nigerian Delegation that countries which have not established national co-ordination committee for the implementation of RASCOM should do so.

59. He outlined the achievements made in the telecommunications sub-sector and informed the meeting that PANAFTEL network is completed in Eastern and Southern Africa and West Africa subregions. He further informed the meeting that the Central African subregion is behind in PANAFTEL network development. With regards to utilization of PANAFTEL network the meeting was informed that the network is under-utilized in areas where it has been completed, and outlined the consequences of this situation and action required by African countries to remedy the situation.

60. He concluded by informing the meeting that ITU is always ready to assist African countries in their effort to develop their telecommunications network.

61. A representative of PATU outlined the activities of the organization with regards to the IACC - UNTACDA. He also informed the meeting that inter-State links are underutilized. He outlined results of a study recently conducted to that effect, including some recent constraints affecting PANAFTEL. The meeting was also informed that steps will need to be taken in areas concerning operations, management and inter-State co-operation. He also said that the organization is also involved in the implementation of RASCOM, and informed the meeting that actions are underway to strengthen PATU's staffing capacity. He further informed the meeting that the organization is short of financial and material resources for implementation of its activities. He called upon the meeting to give serious considerations to the resolution ECA/UNTACDA/88/70 and in his conclusion thanked organizations that have assisted PATU so far.

62. The representative of UNDP informed the meeting that since the beginning of the Decade in 1978, UNDP had contributed $US8 million for the Co-ordination Unit of UNTACDA at ECA. He stated that supplementary funds of $US5 million had been allocated from the Special Programme Reserve and a further $US2 million earmarked from the Regional Indicative Planning Figure (IPF) within the context of the UNDP Fourth Programming Cycle in support of the UNTACDA Co-ordination Unit at ECA.

63. He outlined UNDP support to the communication sector, namely the PANAFTEL and the RASCOM projects and underlined that UNDP future activities in UNTACDA would depend mainly on the decisions of this Conference and on the conclusions and recommendations of the evaluation of UNDP assistance to the Decade secretariat to be carried out and completed by September 1988.

Report of the Chairman of the Sixth Inter-governmental Meeting of Experts of Transport, Communications and Planning (Agenda item 5)

64. The Chairman of the meeting of Experts, in presenting their report to the Conference, said that 28 countries and 20 international inter-governmental and professional associations had participated in the meeting to examine 13 agenda items in a congenial and brotherly atmosphere. Any success achieved should be attributed to both the dedication of the highly competent experts determined to solve the transport difficulties facing the region and to the legendary hospitality of the host country.

65. The meeting of Experts established sub-committees and working groups to consider transport and communications matters on the one hand, the Congo/Zaire River Basin Committee Working Group and the Beira-Lobito Trans-African Highway Co-ordinating Committee on the other hand, both under the auspices of the Transport sub-committee. All the groups then reported to the plenary session, which adopted the reports after due consideration.

66. Specifically, the major items dealt with in communications were: the RASCOM project that calls for a meeting of the African Ministers responsible for telecommunications to be held in October 1988 to consider the progress report of the project, followed by a meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning in 1989 to consider the final report and take decisions on implementation, and PANAFTEL, where a common concern emerged regarding the under-utilization and improper utilization of the available network.

67. In air transport, there was a call for Ministers responsible for civil aviation to meet in 1989 to chart out a common African stand against the possible adverse effects of deregulation in the United States of America and Europe.

68. Regarding the Tripoli-Windhoek Trans-Central African Highway it was recommended that the countries concerned establish their Authority as soon as possible. In the case of the Beira-Lobito TransSouthern African Highway, the Co-ordinating Committee of the States concerned actually met and adopted the terms of reference of the TSAH Committee.

69. Finally, regarding the Trans-African Highway Bureau, the meeting of experts felt that the Bureau should be established on condition that it would impose no extra cost to member countries.

70. The Chairman of Experts further reported that appropriate draft resolutions were prepared on each issue for adoption by the Conference. The most important of these was the resolution recommending the declaration of a second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (1991-2000), with a two-year preparatory period (1989-1990).

71. The final item dealt with was the deterioration of road networks in African countries due to lack of adequate maintenance. Remedial measures recommended included a review of budgetary mechanisms to reallocate sufficient funds for road maintenance, institutional strengthening, training and motivational initiatives to improve staff performance, labour-based technologies, and the contracting of maintenance activities to the private sector.

72. The Conference of Ministers adopted the report of the Inter-governmental meeting of experts as presented and requested that the Ministers concerned with the Congo/Zaire River Basin and the Beira-Lobito Trans-Southern African Highway respectively should meet to adopt the reports prepared by the experts and report back to the Conference.

Considerations of draft resolutions (agenda item 6)

73. During the consideration of the draft resolutions, (annexed to this report) no observations were made on or amendments proposed to the following resolutions which were therefore adopted.

ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 88/67: Convening of a Special Conference of Ministers Responsible for Civil Aviation.

ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 88/68: Establishment of a Working Group on Inland Water Transport in Africa.

ECA/UNTACDA/Res.88/69: Establishment of an Entity for Developing Transport in the North African Subregion.

ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 88/70: Strengthening the Capacity of African Inter-Governmental Organizations Responsible for Implementing Transport and Communciations Programmes in Africa.

ECA/UNTACDA/Res.88/72: Utilization of the Pan-African Telecommunications Network (PANAFTEL).

74. With regard to resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res. 88/71: Trans-African Highways Development, the representative of UNDP proposed the deletion, in the third preambular paragraph, of the reference to UNDP being requested to provide financial assistance during the Fourth Programming Cycle since, he said, UNDP's funds were limited and had all been programmed. It was, however, explained that the paragraph only recalled an earlier resolution of the ECA Conference of Ministers and, therefore, could not be changed by the meeting. The resolution was accordingly adopted without amendment.

75. Comments were made on resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.88/73: Declaration of a Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa. Some participants felt that the draft was too long and that it failed to adequately define ECA's responsibilities during the Second Decade. During the ensuing debate, these concerns were not shared by all, and thus the resolution was adopted without amendment.

76. The next point was the draft resolution proposed by Morocco to which Algeria had proposed an amendment and which the meeting of Experts had deemed to be outside its competence and had, as a consequence, referred to the Ministers. After a long exchange of views on the matter, the Chairman proposed that the issue be referred to a sub-committee consisting of the members of the Bureau (Zaire, Somalia, Egypt and Mali), Algeria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Congo, Guinea, Morocco and Zimbabwe. This proposal was accepted by the sixth meeting of the African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning. The sub-committee was requested to meet and report to the Conference.

Any other business (Agenda item 7)

77. No matter was raised under this item.

Date and venue of the next meeting (Agenda item 8)

78. The delegation of Morocco announced that Morocco would be pleased to host the next meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning. This meeting will take place in 1989 and the dates will be announced after consultations between Morocco and ECA. The Meeting warmly accepted the invitation.

Reports of Sub-Committees

79. The Chairman of the Conference read out the folowing text which replaces the draft resolution proposed by Morocco. The text was acceptable to all members of the Sub-Committee which was appointed to consider paragraph 76 of the report, with a view to examining carefully the draft resolution proposed by Morocco, to which Algeria had proposed some amendments: "The delegation of Morocco expressed its desire to see ECA include Moroccan achievements in the reports on the Transport and Communications Decade in Africa". The Conference accepted this request as far as the internationally recognized boundaries of Morocco are concerned, along the Lagos-Nouakchott-Tangiers route. The Conference unanimously adopted the text presented by the Sub-Committee.

80. The Chairman of the sub-committee appointed in accordance with paragraph 72 of the report to consider the Congo/Zaire River Basin Authority, indicated that their sub-committee met and reached the following conclusions:

(a) The delegations of the Congo and Burundi expressed their agreement with the draft convention on the status of the Basin, as well as on the establishment of the Authority for developing the Congo/Zaire River Basin, whilst the delegations of Zambia and Zaire, maintained their reservations until further information could be obtained from their governments. The decision of these two delegations will be communicated to ECA.

(b) It was therefore decided to postpone the meeting to a later date.

81. The Chairman of the Sub-Committee on the alignment of the Beira-Lobito Trans-Southern African Highway indicated that his Sub-Committee met and after few amendments unanimously adopted document E/ECA/TCD/53, including its annex.

Adoption of Report and Closure of the Meeting (Agenda item 9)

Adoption of Report

82. The Conference adopted its report after making some amendments.

Closure of the meeting

83. The Minister of Transport of Burkina Faso, on behalf of all participants read out the vote of thanks and the text of which is included in as an Annex.

84. The Executive Secretary of the ECA read out the final communique which is also included in the Annex III.

85. In his closing statement, the Minister of Transport and Communications of Zaire, speaking on behalf of all the participants, first sincerely thanked the Prime Minister, who in spite of his major responsibilities and numerous duties had felt it important to honour the conference with his presence.

86. He then observed that resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES.88/73 adopted by the conference with regard to the proclamation of a second transport and communications Decade in Africa, was the most important and outstanding result obtained by the meeting, since it signifies a victory for African countries and is concrete proof of their determination to pursue their co-operation efforts, in order to obtain total physical integration of the continent.

87. He pointed out that the strengthening of African Unity is indispensable at all levels and that with regard to the air transport sector where our continent should undertake effective measures in order to ensure its survival, the decision to convene a special conference of ministers responsible for civil aviation was of major significance. He also underscored the importance of the other resolutions adopted.

88. He requested that resolutions which were previously adopted but not entirely implemented on account of specific problems, should be borne in mind. Among such resolutions, he quoted resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES.86/58 on the ratification of the convention establishing the African Conference on air tariffs and resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES/86/64 whose implementation has been evaluated and which revealed a certain lack of co-operation among states in the establishment of inter-State telecommunications, concerning the PANAFTEL network.

89. Before concluding, he thanked, on behalf of the members of the new bureau, the Zimbabwe Minister of Transport, Chairman of the out-going bureau, as well

as all the other members, for the successful deliberations held during the fifth Conference. He also expressed thanks to the Executive Secretary of the ECA, Professor Adebayo Adedeji, for his dedication to the African cause, as well as to Citoyen Bongoy Mpekesa, Chief of the Transport, Communications and Tourism Division of the ECA for his active role in the Kinshasa meeting. He further thanked the Ministers, Heads of Delegations, Experts and members of IACC for the quality of work accomplished as well as for the confidence reposed in this new bureau which, in order to effectively accomplish its duties, requires the collaboration and experience of all.

90. He concluded by wishing participants a safe return and then invited the Prime Minister to declare the meeting closed.

91. The Prime Minister then took the floor and on behalf of the Founder President of the Mouvement Populaire de la Revolution and President of the Republic Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, formally declared closed the Sixth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning.

RESOLUTION ECA/UNTACDA/RES.88/67

CONVENING OF A SPECIAL CONFERENCE OF MINISTERS RESPONSIBLE FOR CIVIL AVIATION

The Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, meeting at Kinshasa, on 23 and 24 March 1988,

Having taken note of the recommendation formulated by the Sixth meeting of Intergovernmental Experts on Transport, Communications and Planning held from 17-21 March 1988 in Kinshasa, on the activities of the Technical Committee on air transport, which was established by the Mbabane Declaration on air transport in Africa,

Conscious that air transport is one of the key factors for the development and integration of the continent as highlighted in the Lagos Plan of Action, in the Africa's Priority Programme for Economic Recovery, in the United Nations Programme of Action for African Economic Recovery and Development,

Considering that the development of air transport requires co-operation among member States as well as among their airlines,

Considering that meaningful co-operation and the harmonization of air services depend on a coherent and integrated aeronautic policy,

Concerned about the adverse consequences of new civil aeronautic policies on the development of air transport in Africa,

1. Commends the ECA and the members of the Technical Committee for their achievements;

2. Requests the Executive Secretary of the ECA in collaboration with the Secretary General of the CAU:

(a) to convene during the first quarter of 1989, a special conference of African Ministers responsible for civil aviation with a view to considering and adopting an African aeronautic policy.

(b) to establish for the purpose of preparing the said conference, a preparatory committee comprising Air Afrique, Air Gabon, Ethiopian Airlines, Royal Air Zimbabwe Civil Aviation, AFCAC and AFRAA, to co-ordinate the activities of this Committee.

(c) to submit the report as well as the resolutions and recommendations of the special conference of African Ministers responsible for civil aviation to the fifteenth meeting of the Conference of Ministers of the ECA in 1989.

RESOLUTION UNTACDA/RES.88/68

ESTABLISHMENT OF A WORKING GROUP ON INLAND WATER TRANSPORT IN AFRICA

The Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, meeting at Kinshasa on 23 and 24 March 1988,

Bearing in mind the vast expanse of the inland waterways network in Africa,

Recognizing that this network offers vast potential for establishing means of communication at national level and in particular for subregional integration,

Concerned about the under-development of inland waterway transport modes in Africa, as observed from the evaluation of the implementation of the programme of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade,

Bearing in mind also that the ECA is currently undertaking a study on the facilitation of international traffic in Africa including transport by inland waterways,

Invites the Executive Secretary of the ECA, in collaboration with intergovernmental organizations responsible for the management of river basins in Africa as well as with the appropriate authorities in member States, to convene a meeting of experts on problems pertaining to facilitation of transport by inland waterways in Africa and to envisage the establishment of a working group responsible for considering problems in this sector.

RESOLUTION ECA/UNTACDA/RES.88/69

ESTABLISHMENT OF AN ENTITY FOR DEVELOPING TRANSPORT IN THE NORTH AFRICAN SUSBREGION

The Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, meeting in Kinshasa on 23 and 24 March 1988,

Recalling the recommendations of the meeting in Salonika on the development of transport in the Mediterranean, organized in October 1984 by the Economic Commission for Europe (ECE) in co-operation with the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA) and the Economic Commission for Western Asia (ECWA),

Recalling further the report of the team of intergovernmental experts for negotiations on the establishment of a preferential trade area in North Africa,

Bearing in mind the activities of the Center for Studies on Transport in the Western Mediterranean (CETMO) created under the auspices of the Economic Commission for Europe for the promotion of trade within the region,

Bearing also in mind the study on the establishment of a plan for improving transport within the region which is being prepared by the C.E.E.E. in co-operation with ECA and ECWA,

Convinced of the importance of transport for the integration of countries in North Africa and the establishment of a preferential trade area,

Urges the ECA to establish within the Tangiers MULPOC, a section comprising representatives of member States which will still be charged with the follow-up of the study concerning the development of transport within the region and in collaboration with CETMO, co-ordinate the evaluation of traffic, the harmonization of transport infrastructure and facilitation of administrative and customs procedures among the countries of North Africa, as well as between these countries and riparian European countries of the Western Mediterranean and countries in other regions of Africa.

RESOLUTION ECA/UNTACDA/RES.88/70

STRENGTHENING THE CAPACITY OF AFRICAN INTER-GOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS RESPONSIBLE FOR IMPLEMENTING TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS PROGRAMMES IN AFRICA

The Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning meeting in Kinshasa on 23 and 24 March 1988,

Having considered the report of the sixth meeting of Inter-governmental experts of Transport, Communications and Planning,

Recalling resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/55 in particular, operative paragraph (d)(iii) which inter alia calls upon ECA to provide support to the various African regional and subregional organizations and assist them in co-ordinating their transport and communications programmes,

Recalling the resolution on the Lagos Plan of Action which inter alia, directs the Secretary General of the Organization of African Unity (OAU) to act in collaboration with the Executive Secretary of the Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), to take all necessary measures to implement the Lagos Plan of Action, utilizing the resources of the OAU specialized agencies and the technical assistance of ECA,

Recalling further resolution No. CM/Plan/Res.6 adopted at the 45th ordinary session of the OAU Council of Ministers requesting the OAU Secretary General, among other things, to negotiate with funding institutions conditions which would make it possible to consider as a matter of priority, OAU specialized agencies in their respective areas of competence as executing agencies of projects to be funded by those institutions, using African experts,

Noting with appreciation the important role played by African inter-governmental institutions in implementing the Decade Programme,

Noting with regret the fact that almost all these inter-governmental organisations are still suffering from lack of material and financial resources,

Requests ECA to utilize African inter-governmental organizations in executing development projects in Africa and in particular, in the area of telecommunications, to utilize the services of the Pan-African Telecommunications Union, PATU, the key institution for co-ordinating regional and subregional projects.

RESOLUTION ECA/UNTACDA/RES.88/71

TRANS-AFRICAN HIGHWAY DEVELOPMENT

The Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning meeing in Kinshasa on 23 and 24 March 1988,

Recalling resolution 291 (VII) of 26 February 1977 of the Economic Commission for Africa and 2097 (LXII) of 29 July 1977 of the Economic and Social Council of the United Nations proclaiming the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA),

Aware of the tremendous efforts exerted by the Executive Secretary of the ECA in accelerating the Development of the Trans-African Highway programme, infrastructure and institutions during the life of UNTACDA,

Recalling also resolution 604(XXII) of the ECA Conference of Ministers requesting the Executive Secretary, inter alia, to urgently reactivate the Trans African Highway Bureau in ECA, and also UNDP to provide financial assistance during its Fourth Programming Cycle for the establishment and operation of the Bureau,

Appreciating the efforts made by the Executive Secretary in close collaboration with the World Bank and other institutions and countries to draw the attention of Governments to the rapid deterioration of African road networks, and expecially the recommendations of the Fourth African Highway Maintenance Conference[1/] which, inter alia, call upon African Governments to introduce institutional and administrative reforms and budgetary mechanisms towards improved and effective maintenance performance; and also urges the World Bank, the OECD and other Development Agencies and financial institutions to step-up their support for road programmes directed at reversing the trend towards road deterioration,

Appreciative also of the effort of the Executive Secretary of ECA in launching yet another major highway, the Beira-Lobito Trans-Southern African Highway during the life of the UNTACDA,

1. Calls upon countries concerned with the Tripoli-Windhoek Trans-Central African Highway to expedite the establishment of their Authority to enhance the accelerated development to all-weather standard of this very important Trans-African Highway;

2. Commends countries concerned with the Beira-Lobito Trans-Southern African Highway for collectively taking the important initial step in the development of their highway, by inaugurating their co-ordinating committee, as a forerunner of a tremendous amount of regional and subregional co-operative efforts required to improve travel and trade in Southern Africa;

1/ E/ECA/TRANS/60, 30 December 1987

3. Rquests the Executive Secretary of the ECA to provide a progress report at the next meeting of the Conference, in the implementation of the resolution to reactivate the Trans African Highway Bureau.

4. Requests also member countries to consider the following matters when addressing road deterioration:

(a) Review of budgetary mechanisms including earmarking and creation of road funds to reallocate sufficient funds for road maintenance and rehabilitation;

(b) Institutional strengthening of road agencies;

(c) Training and motivational initiatives to improve institutional performance and reduce staff turnover;

(d) Reliance on locally available resources including appropriate and more labour-based technologies.

RESOLUTION ECA/UNTACDA/RES.88/72

UTILIZATION OF THE PAN-AFRICAN TELECOMMUNICATIONS NETWORK (PANAFTEL)

The Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, meeting at Kinshasa on 23 and 24 March 1988,

Recognizing that one of the aims for creating PANAFTEL Network is to promote closer cooperation and economic integration among African countries,

Bearing in mind Resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.86/64 of the fifth meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning on telecommunications for socio-economic development,

Aware that member States have made considerable investments towards the implementation of PANAFTEL Network,

Aware also that the UNDP, ITU and other UN Agencies as well as various international organizations have provided assistance to African member States towards the realisation of PANAFTEL Network,

Noting that substantial achievements have been made in the implementation of the Network, especially in the West African and the Eastern and Southern African sub-regions,

Noting also that in spite of the invesments and achievements made in the implementation of PANAFTEL Network, the Network is grossly under-utilised and/or improperly used due to a number of operational and/or national policy considerations,

1. Calls on member States to give high priority to the completion of PANAFTEL links within the national boundaries and interconnect them with those of neighbouring countries with a view to completing the whole Network;

2. Urges member States to put the PANAFTEL network to greater use for intra-African telecommunication traffic in those sub-regions where the network is completed and operational.

RESOLUTION ECA/UNTACDA/RES.88/73

DECLARATION OF A SECOND UNITED NATIONS TRANSPORT AND COMMUNICATIONS DECADE IN AFRICA

The Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, meeting at Kinshasa from 23 to 24 March 1988,

Recalling resolution 291 (XIII) adopted on 26 February 1977 by the Conference of Ministers of the Economic Commission for Africa, Economic and Social Council resolution 2097 (LXIII) of 29 July 1977 and General Assembly resolution 32/160 of 19 December 1977 proclaiming the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Referring to resolution CM/RES.675 (XXXI) of the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity on the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade adopted in Khartoum in July 1978,

Recalling also its resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES. 84/44 adopted in Conakry in February 1984 recommending to Governments of member States to adopt the principle of launching a second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa,

Recalling further its resolution ECA/UNTACDA/RES. 86/55 adopted during its fifth meeting held in Harare from 10 to 11 March 1986 whereby it

(a) adopted the recommendations of the Joint Inspection Unit of the United Nations, namely that:

(i) There should be a period of evaluation and analysis before a decision is taken on whether or not there will be a second Decade. In this connection, the period of evaluaiton should commence immediately and ECA should find the means of undertaking consultations during the current Decade in order to undertake an in-depth evaluation of the Decade;

(ii) ECA should prepare, as soon as possible, an in-depth evaluation of the decade programme in close collaboration with regional and subregional organizations, the United Nations agencies concerned and other agencies that have been involved in financing and implementing Decade projects;

(b) appealed to international and regional financial institutions in particular the African Development Bank, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development and the United Nations Development Programme, to assist with the in-depth evaluation of the impact of the Decade.

Having considered the report of the sixth Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts of Transport, Communications and Planning;

1. Thanks the United Nations Development Programme for the substantial support granted to ECA which has made it possible to undertake the in-depth evaluation of the impact of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;

2. Adopts the following recommendations of the Sixth Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts of Transport, Communications and Planning:

(a) that in view of the positive impact of the Decade on the integration of transport and communications in Africa and that a considerable effort still needs to be deployed to stimulate cooperation, integration and growth in the transport and communications sectors in Africa, a second Decade should be declared covering the period 1991-2000 in order to sustain the momentum of the activities commenced during the first Decade;

(b) that the expertise and experience acquired during the first Decade should be maintained by retaining and/or reappointing the statutory and executing agencies of the first Decade, namely,

(i) the Conference of african Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning as the permanent policy making body for the implementation of the Decade Programme with the same role and responsibilities as during the first Decade,

(ii) ECA as the lead agency responsible for:

- preparation of the Decade programme in close collaboration with intergovernmental subregional and regional organizations, United Nations specialized agencies and relevant African and international organizations;
- the harmonization, co-ordination and monitoring of all activities to be carried out by itself and by all the other institutions, within the context of the Decade;
- ensuring the coherence and harmonization of regional and subregional projects and components of national transport and communications plans and projects related to the global strategy and programme;
- providing the secretariat services for the implementation of the programme;

(iii) the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee (IACC) as the technical body of the Decade accountable to the Conference of Ministers through the Intergovernmental Meeting of Experts.

(c) that there should be a two-year preparatory period between the end of the first Decade and the launching ofthe second (1989-1990), during which:

- a long-term transport and communications development plan for Africa, covering the period 1991-2010, will be prepared;

- a detailed programme of activities of the second Decade (1991-2000) will also be prepared;

- the mechanisms for executing the programme of the second Decade will be established; and

- specific functions to be performed by the various statutory organs and executing agencies of the Decade will be defined;

(d) the ECA in close collaboration with members of the IACC, other relevant UN agencies and African Intergovernmental organizations, should undertake the following activities during the two-year preparatory period:

(i) Compile information required for defining a special priority programme consisting of inter-State and inter-regional projects retained during the first Decade but which were not executed;

(ii) Update and harmonize priority regional, subregional and national projects of subregional significance contained in the national plans and the plans of regional or subregional intergovernmental organizations and specialized African and international organizations;

(iii) Hold consultations with other agencies and organizations currently executing decade programme so as to exchange views and experience which can be useful for the preparation and implementation of the Second Decade.

(iv) Accelerate in collaboration with member agencies of the IACC, the preparation of regional and subregional policies, development programmes and master plans for each transport and communications sub-sector, as well as integrated global master plans of the transport and communications sectors, taking into account the following:

- Plans and programmes should be based on the development of regional cooridors that support or are designed to support the development objectives of the Monrovia Strategy and the Lagos Plan of Action;

- Clearly established transport and communciations priorities as contained in regional and subregional plans and in the programmes of specialized member agencies of the IACC, or national plans; these will include short term, medium-term and long-term programmes.

- The need for a coherent minimum programme which must be implemented within the specified period.

- A detailed and appropriate mechanism for the implementation of the regional and subregional components of the programme, including availability and sources of resources.

- Appropriate indicators which would facilitate assessment of the achievement of the programme.

- Relevant recommendations made, but not applied during the first Decade, whose implementation can contribute positively to the preparation and execution of the second Decade.

(e) undertake with support from intergovernmental organizations and appropriate specialized agencies, a study on the ineffectiveness of transport and communications in Africa and formulate the reforms and policies required.

(f) that new mechanisms for the implementation of the programme of the Second Decade should be established and that some changes be introduced in the modus operandi of some of those existing during the First Decade as detailed below:

(i) that a Resource Mobilization Committee to be chaired by an African institution be created, consisting of ADB, OAU, UNDP, BADEA, World Bank, EEC, ACP as members and ECA providing secretariat services. The Committee should strengthen co-operation among its members and ensure the collaboration and participation of other financial institutions in the financing of such studies and projects that fall within the global strategy.

(ii) that national co-ordinating committees should be established in collaboration with governments and member institutions of the IACC. The committees should be responsible for monitoring in each country the implementation of projects, policies, programmes, modal and sub-sectorial master plans that fall within the global strategy and co-ordinating activities and information with the Decade secretariat;

(iii) that new associations and organizations which should group together professinals or operators in sub-sectors where no such bodies already exist should be created;

(iv) that the Inter-Agency Co-ordinating Committee should meet at least twice a year during the preparatory period in order to consider proposals submitted by the Decade secretariat; advise the secretariat on the formulation of recommendations to be submitted to the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning;

(v) that the Conference of Ministers should meet at least once a year during the 1989-1990 period, in order to consider and approve the recommendations for the implementation of the global strategy during the second Decade.

(g) that African States are primarily responsible for, and are the principal beneficiaries of the programme, and should devote adequate and more financial resources to the implementation of the Second Decade than they did during the first Decade and should strictly adhere to the priorities laid down for the execution of projects. Furthermore detailed and specific recommendations relating to each transport mode and communications subsector contained in the sectoral reports, should be carefully considered and incorporated into the Second Decade Programme, so as to enable it to more appropriately address the problems affecting the development of transport and communications in Africa.

3. Recommends to the Assembly of Heads of State and Government of the Organization of African Unity as well as the ECA Conference of Ministers and other appropriate United Nations bodies, to take the necessary measures to proclaim a Second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa.

4. Appeals to the Administrator of the United Nations Development programme to continue to provide adequate funds to ECA to enable it to discharge the responsibilties imposed on it on this resolution.

5. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to report to its next meeting on the implementation of this resolution.

RESOLUTION ECA/UNTACDA/RES.88/74

ESTABLISHMENT OF A MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON MARITIME TRANSPORT FOR EAST AND SOUTHERN AFRICA

The Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, meeting in Kinshasa on 23 and 24 March 1988,

Recalling the efforts deployed by ECA since 1971 to establish Port Management Associations in all the sub-regions of Africa;

Aware of the benefits of intergovernmental co-operation in all spheres of economic development and of the resultant harmonization of individual national efforts,

Recalling also its resolution ECA/UNTACDA/Res.83/37 adopted during its third meeting at Cairo in which it referred to the existence of Ministerial Conference on Maritime Transport for West and central African States and strongly recommended that similar organizations should be created for the East and Southern African countries,

1. Reiterates its conviction that the establishment of Ministerial Conferences on Maritime Transport for all subregions of Africa needs to be vigourously pursued in order to:

(a) bring about structural changes in shipping and port operations and infrastructure with a view to increasing participation of the subregions in the carriage of its seaborne trade;

(b) bring about a greater awareness among the countries of the subregions of the important role which maritime transport places in the overall economic development;

(c) promote maritime co-operation through the rationalization of maritime transport services to provide greater economic benefits to member States;

2. Commends the steps so far taken by ECA towards the establishment of a Ministerial Conference on Maritime Transport for Eastern and Southern Africa, in particular, the convening of an intergovernmental meeting of experts at Addis Ababa in September 1987 which recommended, inter alia, the creation of such a body in order to co-ordinate the development of maritime transport in the subregion;

3. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to speed up the establishment of the said Ministerial Conference by taking all the necessary steps to convene in 1988, a Ministerial meeting to consider the recommendations of the meeting of experts;

4. Requests the Executive Secretary of ECA to report to its next meeting on the implementation of this resolution.

FINAL COMMUNIQUE

1. The Sixth Meeting of the Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning was held in Kinshasa, Zaire, from 23 to 24 March 1988. The meeting was formally opened by Citoyen Sambwa Pida Ngbadi, Member of the Central Committee of the Mouvement Populaire de la Revolution (M.P.R.), Premier Commissaire d'Etat and Personal Representative of the Head of State of Zaire, Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko. The meeting was attended by the Ministers and Plenipotentiaries of the following countries: Algeria, Angola, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Chad, Central African Republic, Congo, Cote d'Ivoire, Egypt, Gambia, Guinea, Kenya, Liberia, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Nigeria, Rwanda, Senegal, Somalia, Sudan, Tunisia, Uganda, Zaire, Zambia and Zimbabwe. The following United Nations Specialized Agencies and African and International organizations also attended the meeting: the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the International Labour Organization (ILO), the United Nations Industrial Development Organization (UNIDO), the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO), the World Bank, the International Telecommunications Union (ITU), the International Maritime Organization (IMO), the Organization of African Unity (OAU), the African Airlines Association (AFRAA), the African Civil Aviation Commission (AFCAC), the Economic Community of the Great Lakes countries (CEPGL), the Central African Customs and Economic Union (UDEAC), the African Posts and Telecommunications Union (APTU), the Pan-African Telecommunications Union (PATU), the Preferential Trade Area for Eastern and Southern States (PTA), the Port Management Association of Eastern and Southern African States (PMAESA), the Union of African Railways (UAR), the Arab Bank for African Economic Development (BADEA), the European Economic Community and the Caisse Centrale de Cooperation Economique (CCCE). The following member countries of the United Nations attended the meeting as observers: Canada, Greece and United Kingdom.

2. During the opening ceremony, statements were made by His Excellency Mr. Simbarashe Mumbengengui, Minister of Transport and Communications of Zimbabwe and outgoing-Chairman, Professor Adebayo Adedeji, Under-Secretary General of the United Nations and Executive Secretary of ECA, and Citoyen Sampasa Kaweta Milombe, Commissaire d'Etat of Transport and Communications of Zaire.

3. The Conference elected its bureau composed of Zaire as Chairman, Somalia as First Vice-Chairman, Egypt as Second Vice-Chairman and Mali as Rapporteur.

4. The Conference examined issues related to the future of air transport in Africa with regard to deregulation and liberalisation in America and Europe, the status and evolution of Pan-African telecommunications (PANAFTEL) and Regional African Satellite Communications System (RASCOM) projects, the evaluation of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa (UNTACDA), as well as road deterioration. In order to adopt a common position on the issues relating to deregulation and liberalisation of air transport outside Africa and their consequences on our continent's air transport sector, the Conference decided that a meeting of African Ministers of civil aviation should be convened by ECA. An ad hoc Committee composed of Air Afrique, Air Gabon, Ethiopian Airlines, Egypt Air, Zimbabwe Civil Aviation, African Civil Aviation Commission and African Airlines Association has been established by the Conference to assist ECA in the preparation of that meeting.

5. The Conference noted with satisfaction progress made in linking African countries through telecommunications and the use of PANAFTEL network. However it expressed concern on the under utilisation of that network whose establishment had cost considerable amounts of money to African countries. The Conference called on member States to fully utilize the existing PANAFTEL network and to accelerate the establishment of the missing links.

6. The Conference also noted with satisfaction progress made towards the implementation of the Regional African Satellite Communication System (RASCOM), particularly as regards the launching of the feasibility study funded by Ethiopia and Zimbabwe through loans from the African Development Bank (ADB), the Federal Republic of Germany, Italy, UNDP, ITU, UNESCO and OAU. The meeting took note of the establishment of that project's office within ITU's headquarters in Geneva and urged the project management team, in collaboration with the co-ordinating agencies and national co-ordinators, to pursue the execution of the study whose progress should be submitted to African Ministers of Telecommunications late this year, and final recommendations to be submitted to this Conference in 1989 for decisions on future course of action.

7. The Conference examined the report of the evaluation of the first United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and, while noting that various problems occurred during the Decade period, the Conference reached the overall conclusion that the Decade has been a success inspite of inadequate financial support from the international community and of economic crisis faced by African countries. The Conference, recognizing that the development of Transport and Communication sectors in Africa will require more than a decade and that the momentum built up by the first Decade should not be lost, decided to invite the United Nations General Assembly to declare a second United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa during the period 1991 - 2000, with the understanding that the interim period 1989-1990 will be used for a detailed preparation of the second Decade, drawing lessons from the experience of the first Decade.

8. The Conference reaffirmed the decision that a single Bureau be established at ECA's headquarters with assistance from UNDP and other bilateral donors, to provide secretariat services to all Trans-African Highway Authorities established or recognized by the Conference.

9. The Conference noted the continuous deterioration of African roads and highways whose backlog of maintenance requires in excess of US Dollars five billion, and urged African countries to pay special attention to maintenance of their road and highway infrastructures built during the last three decades.

10. The Conference approved eight resolutions relating to the convening of a special meeting of African Ministers of Civil Aviation, the creation of a working group on inland water transport, the establishment of an entity for the development of transport in the North African subregion, the strengthening of existing inter-governmental institutions involved in the implementation of the Decade programme, the development of trans-African highways, the utilisation of PANAFTEL network, the proclamation of a second Transport and Communications Decade in Africa and, finally the creation of a Ministerial Conference for Maritime Transport of Eastern and Southern Africa.

11. The Conference adopted by acclamation a motion of thanks and appreciation to Marshal Mobutu Sese Seko, Founding President of Mouvement Populaire de la Revolution and President of Zaire, to the Government and the People of Zaire, for the warm hospitality and excellent facilities made available to the meeting and which contributed to the success of the deliberations.

12. The Conference accepted with appreciation the invitation of the Government of the Kingdom of Morocco to host the seventh meeting in Rabat in 1989.

Done at Kinshasa on Thursday 24 March 1988

VOTE OF THANKS

The Conference of African Ministers of Transport, Communications and Planning, meeting at Kinshasa from 23 to 24 March 1988,

Appreciating the warm hospitality extended by the Government and people of Zaire to the participants in its sixth meeting;

Conscious of the deep commitment of the Government of Zaire to the success of the United Nations Transport and Communications Decade in Africa;

Also appreciating the excellent arrangements made for the smooth running of the meeting,

1. Expresses its gratitude to the Government of Zaire for graciously hosting its sixth meeting;

2. Welcomes the results achieved during the sixth meeting;

3. Conveys its profound appreciation to the Government of Zaire for its unswerving commitment to Africa's aspirations towards economic integration and political unity;

4. Requests the Chairman of its sixth meeting and the Executive Secretary of ECA to transmit this resolution to the Government of Zaire.